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AUTHOR Proctor, Adele; And Others
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ABSTRACT

A study was undertaken in an effort to develop techniques for monolingual speech pathologists in the Boston public schools to assess whether language behavior of Cape Verdean immigrants is due to language learning disabilities or simply to language differences. The following three questions were addressed: (1) What are some of the differences between Cape Verdean Creole and English? (2) Are these differences reflected in traditional speech and language tests? and (3) Will presentation of tests in English and Creole enhance the child's performance? A native speaker of Creole provided information about the Cape Verdean culture and translated the Test for Auditory Comprehension of Language, which was then administered to a small group of native Creole-speaking immigrant children, some of whom were language-disabled, and the results were compared with a series of predictions. The findings suggest that this test is a viable clinical procedure for monolingual examiners assessing language performance of nonnative English speaking children, and are being used to establish more appropriate levels of expectation for the performance of Cape Verdean Creole speaking children on the test. The specific language differences between English and Creole that were identified are generalized to other types of tests in the educational setting. (MSE)

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From English to Creole: Assessing Language Difference and Language Disorder.
Adele Proctor and Ann Mc Laughlin, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115
and John Hutchinson, Boston University. U.S.A.

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July 8-13, 1984, Austin, Texas.

Introduction:

There are 10 islands and 5 islets that constitute the independent country of Cape Verde (República Cabo de Verde). Cape Verde is located in the Atlantic ocean about 400 miles west of Senegal, Africa. Figure 1 displays the country and its geographical location relative to the African continent.

Figure 1 About Here

Immigration of Cape Verdeans to the U.S. is reported to have occurred as early as the 1850s and, under current economic conditions in the country, it is estimated that as many as 1200 Cape Verdeans per year may legally emigrate to the U.S. (The Boston Globe, 1983). Because of strong family ties, the majority of Cape Verdean people tend to emigrate to the New England area, predominantly greater Boston and Rhode Island.

The official language of the country is Portuguese, but most of the people speak Creole (Crioulo). Creole is an oral language and reportedly has no accompanying written symbol system. This oral language appears to be derived from Portuguese and a combination of African languages, however,

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it is unclear which African languages. Macedo (1979) states:

Although the Capeverdean language has been in existence for at least four centuries, it has been the subject of little and sporadic scientific research. The lack of interest in the Capeverdean language is obviously a reflection of the social stigma attached to it. By and large, Portuguese and Capeverdean scholars have treated the Capeverdean tongue as a dialect of Portuguese not worthy of scientific study (p. 84).

In the Cape Verdean islands, children initially learn Creole at home and are taught to read and write in Portuguese upon entering school. When families emigrate to the U.S., children are then exposed to variations of English. This means that the Cape Verdean child may be expected, by family and community, to begin communicating in the majority language, English. For the child with a speech, language and/or learning disability, this can be a traumatic experience. The language learning disabled child will clearly encounter difficulty in the native language, Crioulo, and attempts to learn and use English result in additional educational problems for the child, for the family and for educators.

Acquiring proficiency in English may be less difficult for the Cape Verdean child who has no language learning disability. However, cultural patterns governing when children speak, how children speak and to whom strongly influence the normal child's frequency of language use. It is reported that parents of Cape Verdean children expect the child to listen, to be quiet and to be obedient in school. So, regardless of English proficiency, Cape Verdean children may be reluctant to address authority figures, e.g., teachers. Because of the child's reluctance to speak, despite the fact that their teachers may be Cape Verdean, there are problems in obtaining representative language

samples for assessing linguistic performance.

Currently, the Boston public schools enroll a significant number of children whose primary language is not English. These children have as their primary languages, among others, Vietnamese, Laotian, Chinese, Greek, Italian, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Spanish and Cape Verdean Creole. Figure 2 shows the range of different languages spoken by families of children in the Boston public schools.

Figure 2 About Here

Since the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (1983) estimates that 1 out of every 20 people experiences a communication disorder, it is reasonable to assume that, with the number of bilingual children present in the public schools, there are children with unidentified problems in their primary language. As such, there is a need for the monolingual speech-language pathologist (speech therapist) to develop methods of assessing these children to distinguish language difference from language disorder.

To determine whether or not the Cape Verdean child is acquiring language(s) normally, the monolingual speech-language pathologist is expected to assess and recommend, in cooperation with other educators, appropriate educational placement and/or language treatment programs. Although aware professionals recognize the need to evaluate the child in the native language, we are confronted with many questions in addition to not speaking the child's native tongue. Some of the questions are: (1) do we assess only in Creole; (2) do we assess in Portuguese only; (3) do we assess a combination of Creole and Portuguese; (4) how do we draw associations between oral and written language; (5) do we

assess a combination of Creole, Portuguese and English; (6) which is the better approach to assess proficiency in English; (7) what should our expectations be for performance in the primary language, in English; (8) what should our expectations be for written versus oral language; (9) considering cultural differences in child rearing practices, can we apply similar performance guidelines as used with other bilingual children, e.g., the Hispanic child; (10) should we apply performance guidelines that are used with children who speak variations of English; (11) what are the most appropriate ways of using interpreters; (12) should we train interpreters on objectives of speech and language tests to avoid literal interpretations; (13) should we use literal interpretations to gain maximum information about language differences represented on speech and language tests; (14) how do we verify the accuracy of what interpreters provide us; (15) how do we obtain a sufficient number of reliable interpreters during school time to meet the needs of all the children?

Our list of questions is more extensive, because the Cape Verdean child is enrolled in school systems that must meet the needs of children who are native speakers of many other languages. To begin to address a very small part of this massive educational problem, we decided to ask three specific questions to initiate an exploratory study of how we might plan more effectively for differentiating language disorder and language difference.

Specific Questions:

The questions were: (1) what are some of the differences between Cape Verdean Creole and English; (2) are these differences reflected in traditional speech and language tests and; (3) will presentation of tests in English and Creole enhance the child's performance?

To begin to answer the questions, we asked an adult informant, a native speaker of Creole and an educator, Maria Macedo, to provide us information about the culture and to translate a frequently used clinical tool, The Test for Auditory Comprehension of Language (TACL) (Carrow, 1973). For purposes of validation, additional linguistic information was obtained on English-Creole differences from a linguist familiar with Creole.

Procedure and Method:

The Test: The TACL consists of 101 plates of line drawings and pictures that represent referential categories and contrasts that can be signaled by form classes and functions. Each plate has three pictures. One picture is the item to be tested and the other two are contrasts or foil items. The test protocol requires the examiner to verbalize a word or sentence and the child is asked to point to the appropriate picture in the set of three on the page. The child's responses are recorded on a standard score sheet yielding a raw score that can be converted to an age equivalency score, percentile rank, mean for age score and standard deviation. The child's errors can be organized by linguistic categories such as form classes and function words, morphological constructions, grammatical categories incorporating contrasts of case, number, gender, tense or status, syntactic structures such as predicates, modifiers and complementation and single word vocabulary organized in a developmental sequence.

The Translation Process: Translating the TACL involved several steps. The steps were as follows:

1. The translator was given the test to familiarize herself with the instrument.
2. The translator verified her interpretation with other Creole speakers.
3. The translator made written notations of differences between English and Creole found on the TACL.
4. The translator recorded each English item on an audio cassette, paused and recorded the Creole translation for each item on the same tape.
5. The translator reviewed the test, item by item, with the second author.
6. Based on the item by item review of English-Creole differences found on the TACL, a checklist of similarities and differences was generated.
7. To verify the translation, the recorded version of the TACL was administered to a linguist knowledgeable about Creole.
8. After step 7, final modifications were made to the checklist concerning all possible English-Creole differences observed as a result of the translation process. Table 1 illustrates some of the differences found between English and Creole for The Test for Auditory Comprehension of Language.

Table 1 About Here

Rationale for Test Selection and Translation Process: The TACL was selected because it has been translated for other children, between 3 and 7 years, who are non-native English speakers and variations of English were considered in its standardization sample. From the translation of the TACL, we believed we could obtain some specific data on selected aspects of language difference

that would assist in predicting where language normal Creole speaking children would exhibit difficulty in understanding English. Moreover, through the use of the translation process, we believed that we could identify possible reasons for why normal children might display certain types of linguistic differences. We were also interested in documenting the significance of providing the maximum amount of information to Creole speaking children when testing language. That is, clinical observation had suggested that the Cape Verdean children seemed to need both English and Creole in order to achieve maximum performance on such a standardized language test. In addition, a standardized test was chosen, because the Creole speaking child is reluctant to talk in formal educational settings and attempts to obtain language samples were proving to be a trying task for both child and clinician. That is, the clinician had observed a higher frequency, and a different quality, of verbal discourse when children were in peer-peer interaction than when in interaction with her or other teachers. This suggested that scores on language understanding and production obtained in the formal setting were probably not accurate measures of the children's language knowledge. Finally, because we are monolingual English speakers, we chose a structured test that would guide us in developing our own understanding of English-Creole differences. Subsequently, we believed that information of this nature would direct us in improving interpretations of Creole speaking children's test results and direct us in more appropriate identification of which linguistic features are to be expected as errors on such tests.

Predictions: Based on the translation process, several predictions were made relative to errors expected of language normal Creole speaking children on the TACL. The predictions were as follows:

1. Cross cultural differences may be reflected in the lexicon. That is,

- some words are unique to English, e.g., football, baseball, basketball, and children will understand these concepts in English, but not necessarily in Creole.
2. Similarly, some words will be understood when presented in Creole, but not necessarily when presented in English.
 3. Some lexical items will be totally unfamiliar to the child and will not be understood when presented in English or Creole.
 4. Cross cultural differences will be reflected in visual representations. That is, illustrations representing a familiar word, e.g., fast, will be more reflective of western culture and will cause the child to err.
 5. Because of morphological and syntactical differences between English and Creole, as items become more complex, the child will rely more on Creole to identify the appropriate picture.
 6. Specific errors on morphological and syntactical constructions will be reflections of language difference. This means that where we identify more than half the children making an error, we are observing language difference operating as a strong factor in the child's performance.
 7. Language normal Creole speaking children may exhibit depressed scores in English or in Creole, but may approach age appropriate levels when given an opportunity to take the test in English and in Creole. This would occur, because the child will have learned some concepts in English and others in Creole. (Refer to Predictions 1 and 2).
 8. If these predictions are verified, we will have established a baseline from which to make some generalizations about performance of other Creole speaking children.

Test Administration: After identifying linguistic differences between English and Creole through the translation process, a final audio recording was made for administration to subjects. The same adult informant recorded both versions. The standard score sheet was revised to account for responses to English only (E), Creole only (C) and English-Creole (EC). Instructions were verbally presented to each child by the same speech-language pathologist and children were given as many trials as needed until they indicated that they understood the task. The prerecorded tape was presented to all subjects under similar physical conditions and their responses were recorded on the revised score sheet.

The English only version of the test was presented first to determine which items the children could identify in English. One-two weeks later, the English-Creole version of the tape was presented to the same children. For the EC version of the tape, a response was recorded for English if the child pointed immediately to the picture and a response was recorded for Creole if the child waited to hear the Creole before responding or corrected the English response.

Subjects: Overall, 25 children participated in this exploratory study. However, data are presented for 13 language normal children and 2 language impaired children. Children were identified by Creole speaking teachers or teacher aides as normal language learners and as impaired language learners and predominantly selected from English-Creole transition classes required by the state of Massachusetts. For the normal group, there were 8 males and 5 females ranging in age from 5.11 to 8.1 years with a mean age of 6.9 years. All subjects had lived in the U.S. one year or less and only one child spoke English at home. All others spoke only Creole at home. The language impaired children for whom usable data were collected were 9 and 10 years old and were exhibiting extreme difficulty in their transition English-Creole classes.

Data Analysis and Results:

Age equivalency scores were calculated for English only (E) and compared with age equivalency scores for English-Creole (EC). Table 2 shows results of age equivalency scores for E and EC for normal language learners. The table also displays calculations for language delay (measured in months) for E and EC age equivalency scores for the same children.

As can be seen from Table 2, if we accepted the English only presentation as valid, 12 of the 13 children judged as normal language learners by their teachers would be considered language delayed. For English only, 12 of the 13 exhibited an average delay of 36 months. However, when the same children were allowed to hear both English and Creole before responding, EC version, the average delay for the group was 18 months. The child who used English at home was the one who consistently scored above his age level on the E and the E-C versions of the test. While some of this child's performance may be related to knowledge of the language, clearly, some portion of his performance is related to cognitive abilities. This child's score was not included in the averages for the group for E or E-C. From observation of individual scores, it can also be seen that when children were allowed to hear both English and Creole, several approached or surpassed the equivalency scores expected for their chronological ages. For those who did less well, we had a clearer picture of what individual and group English language lessons should contain relative to content and form.

To determine if there was a significant difference, a T test with paired observation was applied to the data for the first 8 subjects judged by their teachers to be normal language learners. To calculate, each subject's score on the English only presentation was rated as number correct (raw score) and

compared to the number correct for the English-Creole version of the test, i.e., raw scores. Table 3 shows results of the T test with paired observations for the first 8 language normal subjects. The computed value of t was significant at the .05 level. This suggests that the language normal subjects improved their scores on a language comprehension task when allowed to hear their native language, Crioulo, and English.

Although attempts were made to conduct similar testing on children suspected to have a language disorder, useable data was obtained on only two subjects. Problems in testing these children included difficulty in understanding the directions for taking the test, even when given in Creole, and maintaining attention for a long enough time to complete the task. Table 4 presents age equivalency scores for two language impaired children. Essentially, for these subjects, we see a similar trend as found with language normal children, i.e., scores improved when they were allowed to hear the E-C version of the tape. However, for E and E-C versions, both children continue to exhibit a greater delay for E-C than found for even the lower scoring children discussed in Table 3.

Table 5 presents a list of the the most frequently found errors for the language normal children and suggests that most of our predictions were verified. That is, some illustrations, or visual representations, are culture specific and may cause the child to misinterpret the pictures. More importantly, grammatical differences found between English and Cape Verdean Creole, for specific structures measured by The Test For Auditory Comprehension of Language, appear to account for a high proportion of the errors made by language normal children.

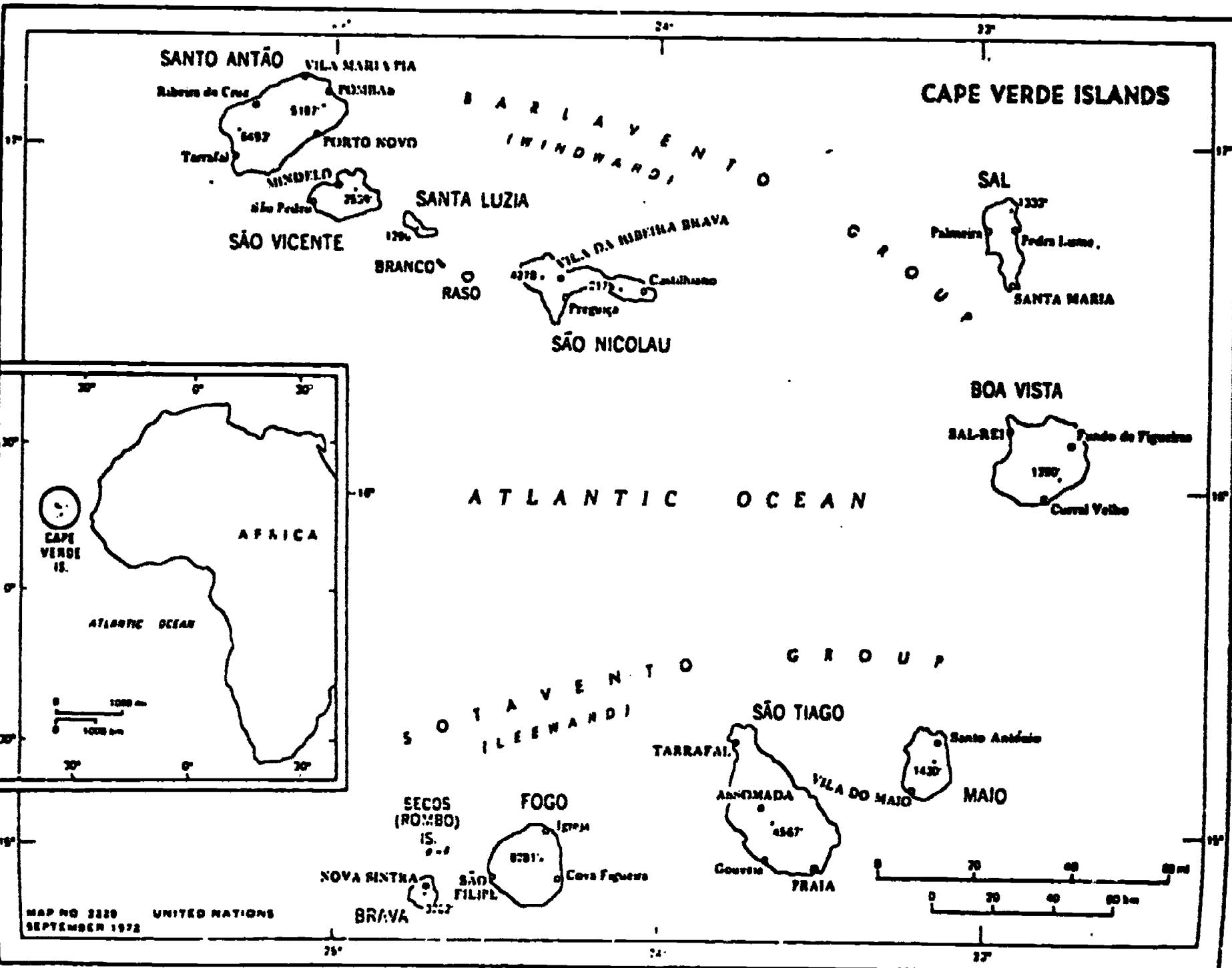
Discussion:

Since the overall purpose of this exploratory research was to design a simple procedure for approaching the task of distinguishing language difference and language disorder, we have, to some degree, achieved this goal. Information acquired thus far has aided monolingual English speaking speech-language pathologists in establishing more appropriate levels of expectation for Cap-Verdean Creole speaking children when administering a frequently used clinical test, The Test For Auditory Comprehension of Language. Information gained as a result of the translation process and by using a prerecorded tape to administer the test suggests that this is a viable clinical procedure for other monolingual examiners who are asked to measure language performance of non-native English speaking children.

The specific linguistic differences identified between English and Creole on one standardized language test have been generalized in the educational setting to other types of tests designed to assess similar or related structures in both receptive and expressive language, thereby, increasing clinical efficiency and accuracy. Identification of specific linguistic differences such as those cited in Tables 1 and 5 has aided clinicians during consultations with classroom teachers and other resource room professionals. Further, these data have assisted in designing more appropriate individual and group language lessons for children who exhibit a language difference and/or a language disorder.

Relative to the three specific questions that guided the completion of this research, we have identified some of the linguistic differences between English and Creole while giving careful consideration to cultural factors that might be reflected in the language when looking at test score results. In addition, specific linguistic differences found on one standardized test allowed us a means of accounting for both the number and proportion of

errors observed when interpreting test results of children judged to be normal language learners by their teachers. Although not shown in this paper, subjects improved their scores when they heard the Creole only version of the tape as opposed to the English only presentation. Most importantly, we found a significant difference in subject scores when they were permitted to hear both their native language and English. For us, this strongly suggests the need for the monolingual examiner to present both the native language and English when testing language behavior of non-native English speaking children. This can be achieved by simply identifying an adult informant familiar with the language and the culture and asking that person to translate those tests used most often in assessing language. Verification of the translation may be obtained through consultation with other speakers of the particular language or through written consultation with a linguist known to be familiar with the particular language. The translation should be tape recorded and all children tested thereafter would be evaluated against a standard recording. While there are criticisms regarding extensive use of tape recordings, this procedure exceeds 'not knowing what to do.' Finally, the examiner's interpersonal skills will help the child feel comfortable about the task.



Source: Macedo, D. P. A Linguistic Approach to the Cape Verdean Language.
Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, Boston University, 1979.

Figure 1

Bostonians: Where they come from

Single-ancestry group			
Austrian	716	Arabian	222
Italian	7	Other Southwest Asian	6
Belgian	128	Iranian	801
Danish	292	Israeli	207
Dutch	809	Turkish	108
English	24,077	West Africa	
Welsh	299	Cape Verdean	2,304
Scottish	1,041	Ghanian	32
Finnish	403	Liberian	60
French	6,136	Nigerian	347
German	2,390	Other West African	73
Greek	5,950	South Africa	
Irish	92,107	South African	59
Italian	48,392	East Africa	
Norwegian	528	Ethiopian	141
Portuguese		Kenyan	8
Azorean	62	Other East African	18
Madeiran	36	[Other] African	1,581
Portuguese	3,626	Other Asia	
Swedish	1,710	Chinese	10,618
Swiss	223	Taiwanese	16
Other Scandinavian	215	Filipino	537
Other European	185	Japanese	604
Other Western European	110	Korean	433
Other Northern European	92	Vietnamese	564
Other Southern European	15	Asian Indian	903
Eastern and Central Europe (including Russia)		Pakistani	102
Albanian	464	Cambodian	10
Czechoslovakian	376	Indonesian	13
Slovak	80	Laotian	251
Hungarian	768	Thai	163
Latvian	570	Ceylonese and Burmese	182
Lithuanian	3,163	All other Asian	7
Polish	8,630	Pacific	
Romanian	380	Australian	26
Croatian	45	New Zealander	12
Yugoslavian	130	Hawaiian	37
Russian	8,488	Fijian and New Guinean	30
Armenian	1,276	North America	
Georgian	7	Afro-American	81,244
Kuzhennan	18	Canadian	2,453
Ukrainian	1,298	French Canadian	2,247
Slav	30	Other North American	63
Gypsy	110	American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut	1,486
Other Eastern European	348	Multiple-ancestry group	
Central European	7	American Indian- English-French	59
Spanish categories		American Indian- English-German	52
Central and South American	6,114	American Indian-English-Irish	110
Other Spanish	20,284	American-Indian-German-Irish	59
Caribbean, Central, and South America		Dutch-French-Irish	11
Haitian	3,060	Dutch-German-Irish	76
Jamaican	3,400	Dutch-Irish-Scotch	77
US Virgin Islanders	34	English-French-German	387
Trinidadians and Tobagonians	1,155	English-French-Irish	1,065
Bahamian and Cayman, etc.	1,344	English-German-Irish	1,249
French West Indian	17	English-German-Swedish	62
Guyanese	216	English-Irish-Scotch	1,553
Other Caribbean, Central, and South American	3,175	English-Scotch	33
Brazilian	191	French-German-Irish	484
North Africa (including Sudan)		German-Irish-Italian	411
Egyptian	125	German-Irish-Scotch	315
Moroccan	17	German-Irish-Swedish	48
Algerian and Libyan, etc.	64	Two-origin multiple ancestry	105,484
Other North African	21	Ancestry not specified	76,273
Southwest Asia		Total	562,994
Iraq	22		
Jordanian	42		
Lebanese	2,266		
Saudi Arabian	31		
Syrian	860		
Yemenian	40		

1980 Census Table PA-15,
Summary Tape File 4, provided by
Data Use and Access Laboratories,
Arlington, Virginia

THE NEW

BOSTONIANS

BY DAVID MEHEGAN

From The Boston Globe, 1/29/84

(For international readers, 'The Globe'
is a daily newspaper published in the
U.S.A.).

Figure 2

Table 1. Primary English-Creole Differences as Determined by the Translation
of The Test For Auditory Comprehension of Language (TACL)

I. Lexical Items

- A. A Creole word exists for all words except 'farm.'
- B. Creole words exist for all of the adjective items.
- C. Creole words exist for all of the verbs; the English morpheme -ing is comparable to /stʌ/ preceding the verb.
- D. In Creole, there is no comparable structure for -ly.

II. Morphological Items

- A. Different rules apply for forming the words 'painter,' 'hitter' and 'fisherman.' The Creole suffix -or is comparable to the English suffix -er for the words 'painter' and 'fisherman.' The word 'hitter' is literally translated as 'one who hits.'
- B. In Creole, the comparative is formed by preceding the adjective with the word 'more' while the superlative is formed by preceding the adjective with the words 'the most _____ of all.'
- C. The suffix -ist has a comparable suffix /ista/.
- D. In Creole, number is indicated by preceding the noun with a specific number or by the word 'many,' /tʃɛvə/.
- E. Creole has comparable morphemes for the demonstratives. The pronouns 'he' and 'she' are not distinct in Creole. The pronoun /ɛ// is used for both and is understood by the context. The pronoun /SE/ is used for both 'his' and 'her.' Distinct pronouns do exist for number with regards to pronouns.
- F. No structures exist in Creole which are comparable to 'is' and 'are' auxilliary forms.
- G. Present progressive is indicated by /stʌ/ preceding the verb. Regular past tense is indicated by accent on the last syllable of the verb. The prefix /dʒʌ/ before the verb is comparable to 'has.' In Creole, /kʌ/ precedes the verb to indicate negation. There is no passive structure in Creole. The word /buʒi/ is literally translated as 'is going to' precedes the verb to denote future.
- H. There are comparable structures for the prepositions 'in,' 'on,' 'under,' 'at the side of' and 'in front of.'
- I. Interrogative is formed as in English.

Table 1. Primary English-Creole Differences (cont'd)

III. Syntactical Items

- A. Simple imperative is comparable to English**
- B. No structure exists for noun-verb agreement.**
- C. Word order in Creole is the same as regards the dependent adjectival clause following the independent clause.**
- D. Word order is the same as in English for complex sentences.**
- E. In Creole, the order is noun-adjective (color)-adjective(size).**

Table 2. Age Equivalency Scores for the TACL : Comparison of English Only and English-Creole

Subject	Sex	Chronological Age (in yrs. & mos.)	Age Equivalency Score ENGLISH ONLY (in yrs. & mos.)	Language Delay ENGLISH ONLY (in mos.)	Age Equivalency Score ENGLISH-CREOLE (in yrs. & mos.)	Language Delay ENGLISH-CREOLE (in mos.)
S1	M	6.6	4.11	19	6.1	5
S2	M	6.5	< 3.0	41	5.7	10
S3*	M	5.11	6.2	no delay	6.2	no delay
S4	F	7.0	3.2	46	5.4	20
S5	F	6.10	< 3.0	46	4.2	32
S6	M	6.1	3.2	35	6.1	0
S7	F	8.1	6.4	26	6.10	20
S8	M	8.1	3.6	55	4.1	48
S9	F	6.9	3.7	38	4.1	32
S10	M	6.11	5.5	18	6.3	8
S11	F	7.5	3.11	42	6.2	15
S12	M	7.8	5.3	29	6.10	10
S13	M	7.9	5.7	26	6.5	16

* speaks English at home

$\bar{X} = 36$ mos.
delay for 12 subjects

$\bar{X} = 18$ mos.
delay for 12 subjects

Table 3. T Test with Paired Observations (N=8)

<u>Subject</u>	<u>English TACL</u>	<u>English-Creole TACL</u>
S1	76	83
S2	56	90
S3	81	84
S4	72	78
S5	64	72
S6	63	76
S7	63	63
S8	65	69

$$X = 67.5$$

$$X = 77$$

$$t=2.519$$

tabular t, d.f. 7, at .05 = 2.365

tabular t, d.f. 7, at .01 = 3.499 two tailed test

Table 4. Age Equivalency Scores for TACL: Language Impaired Children

N= 2; 1 male & 1 female

Subject	Sex	Age ENGLISH ONLY	Age Equivalency Score ENGLISH ONLY	Language Delay (in mos.)	Age Equivalency Score English/Creole	Language Delay (in mos.)
S14	M	10.0	< 3.0	84 mos.	3.6	78 mos.
S15	F	9.0	< 3.0	72 mos.	3.11	61 mos.

Table 5. Frequency of Errors on TACL Relative to English-Creole Differences
 (3 or more children erred on English presentation)

N=13

Grammatical Structure	Test No. and Item	No. S's Incorrect	Possible Cause of Error
1. NOUNS			
	10. pair	10	-related to visual dimensions/
	29. half	5	illustrations
	30. Here is a star. Now point to the bottle on the left.	11	
2. ADJECTIVES			
	15. fast	6	-Culture specific?
	17. soft	5	-illustration for 15 & 17, e.g., picture of pillow for soft; African pillows are to sit on
	18. tall	6	-18-17- related to comparative -superlative differences and singular-plural differentiation
	19. Show me the two that are alike.	6	
	20. These two are different	9	
	21. some	5	
	22. few	7	
3. Adverbs			
	40. easily	6	
	41. gently	11	- no -ly in Creole -illustration?
4. N+V+ADJ+ Derivational Suffix -er	50. farmer	8	-no Creole word for farmer
5. N+Derivational Suffix -er + Masculine Suffix	53. fisherman	6	- culture specific? Cape Verdean fisherman dresses differently from U.S. fisherman
6. N + Derivational Suffix -ist	57. bicyclist 58. pianist	12	- vocabulary and no Creole structure for -ist

Table 5. Continued

-2-

Grammatical Structure	Test No. and Item	No. S's Incorrect	Possible Cause of Error
7. NOUN Number	66. chairs 67. balls 68. coats (Probably learned in English)	9 3 4	- In Creole, number indicated by using specific number preceding noun or by the word many /tʃəʊ/ preceding noun
8. DEMONSTRATIVE	43. these	7	- illustration? Creole for comparable morphemes exist
9. PRONOUNS Number and Gender	59. they 60. he 61. she 62. Mother gave the ball to her. 63. His puppy is black and white. 65. We're eating apples.	4 7 6 5 8 4	- No gender distinction in Creole - 'El' is used for both 'he' and 'she' and understood by context - 'Se' is used for both 'his' and 'her'
10. VERBS Number	70. The sheep is eating. 71. The fish are eating.	8 5	- no Creole structures comparable to 'is' and 'are' - cannot differentiate singular and plural in Creole by using 'is' and 'are'
11. VERBS Tense	64. She is going shopping. 74. The man painted the house. 75. The lion has eaten. 76. He will hit the ball. 77. The man has been cutting trees.	6 4 11 11 12	- present progressive indicated by /stʌ/ preceding the verb - regular past tense is indicated by accent on last syllable of verb - the prefix /dʒʌ/ before the verb is comparable to 'has' - no passive structure in Creole
Voice	80. The donkey is carried by the man. 81. The boy is chased by the dog	5 9	- the word /baɪ/ precedes verb to denote future - all verbs on test based in 'to give'

Table 5. Continued

-3-

Grammatical Structure	No. and Item	No. S's Incorrect	Possible Cause of Error
VERBS			
Status	87. The girls isn't running. 88. Neither the girl nor the boy is jumping.	7 9	- the Creole word /ka/ precedes the verb to indicate negation
12. PREPOSITIONS			
	45. under the table 48. The cat is between the cars.	7 5	-No comparable Creole structures for prepositions
13. INTERROGATIVES			
	83. When do you sleep?	6	-Illustration? In Creole, Interrogative formed as in English; intonation distinguishes question
14. NOUN-VERB AGREEMENT			
(Number)	93. sleeps 94. has ice cream	11 10	-No Creole structure for Noun-Verb Agreement -to produce in Creole, must use subject pronoun to differentiate singular and plural
15. DIRECT-INDIRECT OBJ.			
	95. She shows the girl the boy	8	-may be related to pronoun confusion or illustration
16. Complex imperative Sentence with conditional clause			
	99. If you're the teacher, point to the dog, If not, point to the bear.	8	-'ka' precedes the verb to indicate negation
-Complex imperative sentence using neither nor			
	100. Find the one that is neither the ball nor the table.	10	-complexity of sentences
-Compound imperative sentence			
	101. Look at the third picture then point to the baby of this animal.	10	

The Country:

Official Name: Republica de Cabo Verde (Republic of Cape Verde)

Independence: July 5, 1975

Population: 320,000

Per Capita Income: \$270 (U.S. dollars)

Infant Mortality: 105 per 1000 live births (1975)

Life Expectancy: 45 years

Geographical Area: 1557 square miles of land

Source: The Boston Globe, Wednesday, September 23, 1983.

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